

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 27 No. 10

October 15, 1959

Whole No. 325



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES #7

PLUCK AND LUCK

The longest lived dime novel series published. It began on January 12, 1898; and the final number appeared in March 1929. A total of 1605 issues and, if Wide Awake Library which it succeeded is added, a total of 2958 consecutive issues appeared over a span of 50 years. The first numbers were issued semi-monthly but it quickly became a weekly along with the other Tousey publications. All the stories were reprints of earlier stories pub-

lished in the various Tousey story papers; Boys of New York, Young Men of America, Golden Weekly and Happy Days. With No. 451 the series began reprinting its own earlier numbers on an intermittent basis. With number 874, March 3, 1915, all issues were reprinted from earlier numbers. In 1922 Harry Wolffe bought out Tousey and continued all the series then extant including Pluck and Luck. With No. 1145 the size was reduced and so continued until 1605.

OLD ENGLISH JOURNALS FOR BOYS

"THE BOYS LEISURE HOUR"

by W. M. Burns

The Boys Leisure Hour is today considered one of the most scarce and rare of any of the old journals for boys that were published in England. In fact, in that respect as scarce as its companion journal, Boys Standard.

Both journals were published by Charles Fox, 4 Shoe Lane, Fleet St., London, E. C.

Just recently I was offered the first 100 issues of Boys Leisure Hour at a very reasonable price and needless to state, I bought them at once.

No. 1 is dated Aug. 23, 1884, and from data on hand, I learn that the last issue, 379, was dated Nov. 28, 1891, when it was incorporated with the Boys Standard which ran to Oct. 1892 and was then discontinued.

The overall size of Boys Leisure Hour is 9x12, a bit larger in size than the average boys journal of that era. It is a 16 page paper and

sold for one penny per copy. This run of the first 100 issues that I have, are in practically mint condition, printed on a nice white heavy grade of paper as strong and as white as the day they came from the presses. The run is not bound and some previous owner must have taken fine care of them by keeping them away from light and heat, as otherwise they would be brown and brittle after all the years since 1884. About half of the run has full page illustrations on front page. The remainder has half page illustrations and pages 8 and 9 all have half page illustrations. And a few of the earlier numbers had a half page illustration on page 12 and a few had a small illustration on page 5.

The small illustrations stopped with No. 19 and the half page illustration on page 13 stopped with No. 31. From then on illustrations only on pages 1-9-10.

Authors names were seldom given in Boys Leisure Hour. The five serial stories starting in No. 1 of Boys Leisure Hour, were "The Roman

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Published Monthly at
821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas

Edited by
Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Lawrence, Kansas
Price \$2.00 per year

Assistant Editor
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Asst. Ed. Photography—Charles Duprez, 228 Larch Lane, Smithtown, L.I., N.Y.

Ad Rates — 6c per word. \$1.00 per inch, quarter page \$2.25, half page \$3.00 and Full Page \$5.00. — 4 times for the price of three.

Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

Standard Bearer. A Tale of Britain's First Invasion," "Gentleman George, The King of the Road," "On the Queen's Service. A Tale of Many Lands," "Our Boys Adventures, North, South, East and West," and "A Sword for a Fortune; or, Sir Redmond the Rover."

There were several fine historical tales in this run. While "Gentleman George," is primarily a highwayman tale, its sequel, "The King of Diamonds" is purely a historical tale. Other fine historical tales are "On the Queen's Service," by J. J. G. Bradley, "Richard of the Ravens Crest," "The Minstrel Cavalier," "The Roman Standard Bearer," "Sword and Lance. A Story of Military Adventure in India," "Caractus, the Champion of the Arena. A Romance of Rome and Britain," "The King's Champion," and "The Young Royalist."

In this run there seems to be several tales by that fine writer, E. Harcourt Burrage. In "Wonderful Ching-Ching," while no author's name is given, the following is under the title, "Sequel to Handsome Harry," "Cheerful Ching-Ching," "Darling Ching-Ching," etc. In "Young Ching-Ching," not any reference whatever as to whom the author was. But I assume that Burrage was the author also. Under the title of "The Troublesome Twins," is the following, "by the author of Handsome Harry." Under the title of, "The School on the Sea," it states, "by the author of Handsome Harry, Cheerful Ching-Ching, Troublesome Twins, etc." So it looks as if Burrage had at least four tales in this run of the first 100 issues of Boys Leisure Hour.

"Young Ching-Ching" must have been a very long story indeed as it started in No. 53 Boys Leisure Hour and had not reached its end in No. 100, but had run that far to 135 chapters. I have no knowledge of just how far it did run after No. 100.

Here I wish to digress a bit to state that in my files of Boys of New York I have the tale, "Hand-

some Harry of the Fighting Belvedere," and also in my files of Boys of New York I have a sequel to it, titled "Handsome Harry's Vendetta; or, The Cruise of the Meteor." I do not think this sequel was ever published in England. Yet I may be wrong about this. And I have "Handsome Harry of the Fighting Belvedere" complete in my files of Golden Hours. And just recently I bought the Hogarth House Standard Library four volume set of "Handsome Harry of the Fighting Belvedere." This four volume set is deceiving, if one has never seen it, as not all of it runs to "Handsome Harry." The last 23 pages of Vol. 3 and all of Vol. 4 contains the tale of "Cheerful Ching-Ching" which ran to 97 chapters. While I have all these stories of "Handsome Harry" and "Ching-Ching," I have never gotten around to read any of them, but I hope to get a chance to do so soon.

But to come back to Boys Leisure Hour. Fox was noted for the many tales that he published about Highwaymen, Bushrangers, Smugglers, Pirates and other types of outlaws. In this category we have the following tales.

"Gentleman George, the King of the Road," "Bluecap, the Bushranger; or, The Australian Dick Turpin," "Lionel of the Sea. A story of the Days of Captain Kydd" and "Young Will Watch, the Smuggler King."

Two good school stories are "That Rascal Jack. A tale of Thrashenwell College" and "The School on the Sea."

Two stories in this run, not as yet mentioned, are "Freebooters and Sharpshooters" and "Boyhoods Battles; or, The Ups and Downs of a Runaway."

Short stories that run in series are, "Strange Stories of Ancient Times," "Scenes of Great Historical Events," "Tales of Shipwreck," "Celebrated Duels," "Memories of the Past," "Great Tournaments," "Tales of Celebrated Travelers," and "Famous Voyages and Strange Journeys." One or more of the above was run-

ning constantly week after week.

There was no advertising except various other Fox publications. Fox published a Standard Library. Here's a few of the blood-tingling titles published in it. "Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street," "Spring Heeled Jack, the Terror of London," "Turnpike Dick, The Star of the Road," "Broad-Arrow Jack," "Jack Sheppard," "Handsome Harry," "Darling Ching-Ching," etc.

I never saw any of Fox's Standard Library, but I sure would like to own some of them.

Once in a while there were colored plates given gratis with Boys Leisure Hour. But I have none of them. They were removed by some previous owner of the run. But I do have the two special issues of the Christmas numbers.

In this run of Boys Leisure Hour are nine tales that were later reprinted in the Hogarth House Standard Library. I have five of the nine in my own collection of Hogarth House items.

"DEADWOOD DICK" FORGOTTEN

(From the Literary Digest, December 23rd, 1916)

All the old heroes of the DEADWOOD DICK pattern have faded the minds of schoolboys. No youth now goes forth to fight Indians or herd cattle on the plains. Even Fenimore Cooper has staled; and nothing short of airplane or motor-car can stir the imagination of the modern boy. The head master of the Tome School, of Port Deposit, Md., Dr. Thomas Stockton Baker, so assures us in a lecture delivered at Cooper Union and reported by the New York Times. He declares:

"Our boys, as they sally forth on their imaginative adventures today, like to go in very high-powered motor cars, or a mighty aeroplane comes in handy in their trips by land and sea. The trusty blade of former days is a very inadequate weapon to meet the dangers their imaginations conjure. The boy must be armed with the

most death-dealing devices that the editor of the popular scientific monthly can present to his eager reader. Captain Kidd has been supplanted by the stealthy submarine captain who smells rather of the engine-room and talks in terms of horsepower than in the gory dialect of the classical pirate.

"There never was a more complex subject than the study of the American boy. He does not lend himself very well to analysis. He is usually chivalrous, except to his fellows, when he is apt to be merciless. His powers of imagination are boundless, but his flights of fancy nowadays do not take the direction his father's mind traveled, or even the trend that the foreign boy's follows. The little Frenchman still likes to picture himself fighting savages in strange corners of the earth. The American boy is less of a buccaneer, less of a frontiersman, than the foreign boy. To him Fenimore Cooper is almost a sealed book, while the European lad still reads lovingly the stories of the backwoods."

This change from the old order, which had its value for the imagination if it sometimes dealt cruelly with excitable natures, brings perils of another kind which must be watched lest they gain strength from the temper of the present times.

"The war (World War One) has stirred all nations to their profoundest depths, and we are trying and testing every bit of the fabric of modern civilization to see whether it is necessary in our way of living. We shall probably discard many things as a result of this searching introspection. In the department of education there was probably never a higher degree of thoughtfulness than at this present crisis. The great danger in this country to be avoided in our schoolwork is the danger of materialism. In Europe the intense suffering which has prevailed will give a background of seriousness and thoughtfulness to all endeavor that we Americans shall not possess except in a faint reflection. Europe will

have to think in terms of materialism. Stupendous debts will have to be paid; ruined fortunes will have to be repaired, shattered homes will have to be restored. It is to be hoped that the schools in the United States will do something to halt the appeal that is being made on every hand to the obvious, the cheap, the popular. The agencies for mental development are all too few, and if the schools fail in their duty the condition will be deplorable."

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings
Fisherville, Mass.

Bill Claggett and Lou Kohrt have lots of novels for sale.

"Have you seen the 'Antiquarian Bookman,' mag. published by The Specialist Book Trade Weekly, Box 1100 Newark 1, N. J. They have a fine, yes, a very fine check list of Horatio Alger, Jr., by Morton S. Enslin in the July 6-13, 1959, double No. Vol. 24 No. 1 and 2 (2 illustrations), a very fine checklist to have, you bet.

Gerald McIntosh sure has had one heck of a time this last spring and summer, for he's been in the hospital 2 or 3 times or more, and still doesn't feel any too hot, but although it will be a hard pull he's sure to come along all O.K. before long he hopes.

Eli Messier of Woonsocket, R. I., has been under the weather for over 3 months, since he fell off a step-ladder staging while painting his house.

Howard B. Silsbee left Aug. 7th to study in The University of Foreigners, in Italy. Says he hopes to have an illustrated article on Dime Novels coming out in the magazine section of the "Newark New Jersey

News" Aug. 30th, and he hopes to have a U. S. commemorative postage stamp out in 1960 on the Dime Novel—You bet we'll all be on the lookout for it.

Ed LeBlanc is not selling all his novels, all except his favorites.

A number of the Brotherhood members have been up here this summer; such as Mr. and Mrs. Frank Acker, Lou Kohrt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Duprez, Don L. Steinhauer, Peter Scalio and John MacDonald—went with Lou to see Ralph Smith, also with Charley Duprez to see Don Leonard and Frank Henry. Charlie went up and visited with Ken Daggett, Eddie Smart and Walter Higgins—he wanted to see Bill Burns, but Bill had gone to the hospital in Portland, Me. The Ackers also went to see Bill, but too late. Charlie also went up and visited with George French, and expected to stop to see Dewey Miller on his way home. Charley was sorry he couldn't make it to visit Ed LeBlanc, but things just didn't work out right so he knows Ed will excuse him this time.

While Lou Kohrt was here May 9th, we went over the Old Cap Collier Library together, and found that Old Cap Collier Library #128— Frank James Alarmed, or Old Zeke Piping New Evidence, was the same as Jesse James Stories #90 Jesse James Alarmed, or Trained by Old Zeke, the Detective.

Robert Conahay, gosh, I haven't heard from him for years. Think I've written him a few times back along, no answer.

Ed LeBlanc says he's so busy now that lots of correspondence he will answer as soon as he can. It's good to know that some one keeps on the go these days.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 153. Roy Phelps, 920 Third Ave., Box 706, Seattle 4, Wash. (New Address)
- 75. A. R. Seder, 5012 Hampden Lane, Bethesda 14, Md. (New Address)
- 235. Burton L. Cornwell, 591 Candler St., N. E., Atlanta 7, Ga. (New Memb.)
- 236. C. E. Douglas, 402 28th St., Vienna, W. Va. (Old Member)
- 164. Jack Conroy, 14626 Millard Ave., Midlothian, Ill. (New Address)
- 237. Raymond F. Gibbons, 40 Victory Ave., Lackawanna, N. Y. (New Memb.)
- 238. Herbert Kenney, 25 Burdette St., Framingham, Mass. (New Member)

Statement required by the Act of August 24, 1912 as amended by the Acts of Mar. 3, 1933 and July 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) Showing the Ownership, Management and Circulation of

Dime Novel Round-Up

Published monthly at Lawrence, Kansas, for the month of August, 1959.

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher Edward T. LeBlanc,
87 School St., Fall River, Mass.
Editor, Edward T. LeBlanc,
87 School St., Fall River, Mass.
Managing Editor, Edward T. LeBlanc,
87 School St., Fall River, Mass.
Business Mgr., Edward T. LeBlanc,
87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address thereunder the names and addresses of

stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None

Signed

Edward T. LeBlanc
Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of September, 1959.

(seal)

Kenneth W. Montgomery

My commission expires the 30th of June 1961.

WANTED

1. E. R. BURROUGHS novels—please state title, publisher, condition, dust jacket or not, price.
2. TOM SWIFT original series books.
 - (1) Tom Swift and His Magnetic Silencer
(“Better Little Book” pub. by Whitman)
 - (2) Tom Swift and His Television Detector
(Pub. by Grosset and Dunlap)
 - (3) Tom Swift and His Ocean Airport
(Pub. by Grosset and Dunlap)
 - (4) Following Grosset and Dunlap if tan cover:
T. S. and His Giant Magnet
T. S. and His Big Dirigible
T. S. and His Planet Stone
 - (5) Any Tom Swift in mint or excellent condition with dust jacket

Mail quotes to:

CAPT. F. C. ACKER

Armed Forces Staff College

Norfolk 11, Va.

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RARE OLD TIMERS AT BARGAIN PRICES

Many of the following cloth bound books are first editions. Condition ranges from only fair to excellent. Prices range from 35c to \$1.25 each. Write for particulars on any in which you may be interested:

By Harry Castlemon

Rodney the Partisan, Guy Harris the Runaway, Our Fellows, Carl the Trailer The Boy Trapper, The Boy Traders, Snowed Up, The Mail Carrier, True to His Colors, Elem Storm the Wolfer, Snagged and Sunk, The Steel Horse, Marcy the Refugee, Marcy the Blockade Runner, Frank on the Prairie, Frank in the Forecastle, Frank on a Gunboat, Frank in the Mountains, Frank at Don Carlos Rancho, Frank Among the Rancheros.

By Oliver Optic

Bear and Forbear, Outward Bound, On Time, Brake Up, Sailor Boy, Work and Win, Switch Off, Breaking Away, Haste and Waste, All Aboard, Desk and Debit, Lightning Express, Plane and Plank, Down the River, Stand by the Union, A Victorious Union, On the Blockade, Taken by the Enemy, Within the Enemy's Lines, Fighting for the Right, Cringle and Cross Tree, Poor and Proud.

By E. T. Tomlinson

Boy Soldiers of 1812, Guarding the Border, The Boys with Old Hickory, The Winner, Winning His W. Tecumseh's Young Braves, Scouting on the Old Frontier, Cruising on the St. Lawrence, The Boy Officers of 1812.

By Kirk Monroe

Forward March, Brethren of the Coast, Under the Great Bear, The White Conquerors, The Fur Seal's Tooth, Snowshoes and Sledges, Wakulla, With Crockett and Bowie.

By W. H. G. Kingston

Will Weatherhelm, Salt Water, Voyage Around the World, The Missing Ship. The paperbacks listed below are hard to find today in good condition. Why not stock up on some of them while they are available at low prices?

BUFFALO BILL BORDER STORIES: 13 to 17, 20 to 29, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41 to 49, 54 to 59, 61 to 64, 67, 68, 70 to 95, 98 to 101, 104, 105, 107 to 116, 118, 120 to 123, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 134 to 139, 144, 147 to 150, 152 to 160, 162 to 165, 167 to 182, 184, 185, 186, 188 to 196, 199, 201 to 205, 207 to 209. Price: 75c each; 5 for \$3.25; 10 for \$6.00.

DIAMOND DICK STORIES in GREAT WESTERN LIBRARY: (These are the only reprints ever published of Street & Smith's Diamond Dick Weekly. Complete set except for No. 3). 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25. Price 75c each.

WESTERN STORY LIBRARY: Reprints of the Ted Strong cowboy stories. Can supply any issue from 1 to 70 except 9, 11, 58, 66, 68, 69. 75c each; 5 for \$3.00; 10 for \$5.25.

EARLY WESTERN LIFE SERIES: Complete set of 16 issues. Reprints of the most colorful of the Beadle stories of outlaws, heroes, Indian fighters, and famous frontiersmen of the old West. Price, \$10.50.

Hundreds of Beadle New York Dime and Half Dime, Comic and Wide Awake Libraries. Hundreds of Tip Top and New Tip Top Weeklies. Hundreds of American novels such as Nick Carter, Buffalo Bill, etc., in French, German and Spanish. Complete sets, bound, of such rarities as Beadle's Pocket Library, Beadle's Boy's Library, and others. Write for particulars.

OLD NICKEL NOVELS, AND OTHER RARE ITEMS

\$1.25 each. We will send (our selection of issue) one copy in very good condition of your choice of any of these old weeklies: *AE Sports*, *Buffalo Bill Stories*, *Beadle's Dime Library*, *Beadle's Half-Dime Library*, *Bowery Boy*, *Brave and Bold*, *Comic Library*, *Diamond Dick, Jr.*, *Fame and Fortune*, *Frank Manley*, *Gem Library*, *Might and Main*, *New Nick Carter Weekly*, *Old Sleuth Weekly*, *Old Sleuth Library*, *Old Cap Collier Library*, *Puck and Luck*, *Rough Rider*, *Rover Boy*, *Secret Service*, *Three Chums*, *True Blue*, *Tip Top Weekly* 1904, *Work and Win*, *Wild West*, *Wide Awake Weekly*, *Wide Awake Library*, *Western Weekly*, *Young Athlete*. (No specific numbers selected at these prices).

New York Weekly Volume 44, loose, contains Denman Thompson's famous novel from the play, "The Old Homestead," \$10.00. Also have paper covered novel for \$1.50.

Red, White and Blue. Good \$2.50. Average \$1.50.

Captain Jack of the Light Brigade \$1.50

Charity Joe \$1.50

Karl, the Uhlan \$1.50

Jonathan Wild, Handsome Jack, Nightshade, Claude Duval (DeWitt) Fine, 1 each for \$15.00. Average, 1 each for \$10.

Gustave Aimard's Indian Novels. \$1.25 each.

Rough Rider. No. 1 to 25. Fair, average, good. The lot, \$20.00.

James Boys novels in N. Y. Detective Library. \$4.00 each.

Old King Brady novels in N. Y. Detective Library. \$3.00 each.

Diamond Dick Jr. in the 700's. Good. \$10.00 per dozen.

Nick Carter Magazine \$1.00 each. Detective Story Magazine with Nick Carter novels, \$1.00 each.

Frank Merriwell in the Curb Market (Fame & Fortune Feb. '29) \$1.

Boy Travellers Series, by Knox (cloth, large) \$2.50. 5 for \$10.

Claude Duval. Complete set (DeWitt, large size). 28 numbers in 3 leather-bound volumes. \$40.00. Single copies on hand.

Beadle's Frontier. Original Ivers edition. 3 for \$1.00.

Sexton Blake's Detective Weekly. 3 for \$1.00.

Secret Service between No. 727 and 838, new covers, \$1.25 each. Between No. 839 and 950, reprint covers, \$1.00 each. All large size.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly. Volumes, \$2.50. Singles, 50c each.

Tip Top Weekly between No. 100 and 200, \$1.50 and \$2.00 each.

OLD BOOK: Bird: Nick of the Woods. 1853. \$3.00.

The Philistine (Elbert Hubbard) Vol. 24 No. 1 to 6. \$1.00.

Postpaid.

Subject to prior sale.

RALPH P. SMITH

Rox 985

Lawrence, Mass.